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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 13 December 1961

FROM : Deputy Chief, Language Training

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

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1. The Interagency Language Round Table met on Friday, 8 December, at Arlington Towers. [] served as chairman and host for the session. The group included for the first time representation from the Peace Corps in the person of Mr. Leon Schertler, who is in charge of their language training program. Major discussion at the session was on the availability of African language teaching materials and the pooling of information on the various surveys which are now going on in the Government on consolidation of language training facilities. [] raised the question of interest within the group in programmed language instruction and described his visit to the University of Michigan and his talks with Rand Morton. The group agreed to invite people engaged in programmed language materials to subsequent sessions of the Language Round Table to demonstrate their language teaching techniques. Dean Sollenberger of the Foreign Service Institute reported briefly on his observations in the course of a 3-month trip to visit Foreign Service posts in the field.

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2. The Intermediate full-time German class spent a very profitable week [] last week, accompanied by members of the German Department staff. The group maintained a high level of interest throughout the week, and, according to an informal critique of the outing, felt that they profited in many specific ways from the trip. They have requested another short stay [] in January, which we are now trying to arrange.

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3. [] received a long-distance call from Dr. Thomas Sibeok, Director of the Centers for Anthropology, Folklore and Linguistics, inviting him to contribute an essay on "Soviet

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Language Teaching" for a published symposium on "Trends in East European Linguistics." This collection will consist of papers by American specialists from Harvard, Indiana, University of Washington, and elsewhere. The essay on Russian language teaching is intended for the section on "Applied Linguistics."

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4. Feedback from students on our newest Russian instructor, [] is highly favorable. Students report that they find his classes stimulating, fast-moving and effective. [] has seen him in action and feels he is particularly able at conducting variation drills. Possessed of a highly retentive memory, and with considerable insight into what he has observed in the USSR, [] is able also to appeal to our more mature students in advanced classes who are interested in learning about the Soviet system. Speaking of the difference between working here and in FSI, he has said, "I feel less like an automaton here than in my limited native speaker role in the FSI."

5. Ten instructors in the Voluntary Language Training Program have now observed 1 1/2 to 2 hours each of daytime instruction in French, Italian and Spanish. Their reaction was on the whole enthusiastic. Our hope is that by continuing such observation periods they will be able to apply the teaching methods observed.

6. During the past week nine written proficiency tests were given in Bulgarian, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Serbian. Four of the candidates were from DD/P and five from other components.

Twenty-eight oral proficiency tests were given during the past week in French, German, Italian and Japanese. Twenty-one of the candidates were from DD/P and seven from other components.

Thirteen Language Award certificates were forwarded to the Registrar this past week.



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